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**In the Claims**

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Please cancel claims 2-3, provisionally cancel claims 19-34 pending reconsideration and amend claims 1, 5, 8, 12 and 16.

*Sub C1* 1. (amended) A connector for liquids which comprises:

- (a) an inner polymeric liner having two opposed flared ends and a centrally disposed bore therethrough;
- (b) a bendable outer metallic sleeve having two opposed flared ends of similar geometry to said polymeric liner flared ends; and
- (c) two outwardly facing threaded nuts, each of said nuts having a shelf which contactingly engages said opposed flared ends of said metallic sleeve.

*Sub C1* 5. (amended) A connector for liquids which comprises:

- (a) an inner polymeric liner having two opposed flared ends and a centrally disposed bore therethrough;
- (b) a bendable outer metallic sleeve having two opposed flared ends of similar geometry to said polymeric liner flared ends and a plurality of ribs between said two opposed flared ends of said metallic sleeve; and
- (c) two outwardly facing threaded nuts, each of said nuts having a shelf which contactingly engages said opposed flared ends of said metallic sleeve.

*Sub C1* 8. (amended) A connector for liquids which comprises:

- (a) an inner polymeric liner having at least one flared end and a centrally disposed bore therethrough;
- (b) a bendable outer metallic sleeve having at least one flared end of similar geometry to said at least one polymeric liner flared end; and
- (c) at least one outwardly facing threaded nut, said nut having a shelf which contactingly engages said at least one flared end of said metallic sleeve.

*Sub C1* 12. (amended) A connector for liquids which comprises:

- (a) an inner polymeric liner having one flared end and an opposed integrally molded sealing end, said liner having a centrally disposed bore therethrough, and wherein said sealing end comprises

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(amended)
- (i) a radially extending sealing surface from said liner, and
  - (ii) a shoulder which terminates the sealing surface, and wherein said bore of said sealing end is essentially the same as said bore of said liner,
- (b) a bendable outer metallic sleeve having two opposed flared ends of similar geometry to each of said polymeric liner flared end and said shoulder of said sealing end; and
- (c) two outwardly facing threaded nuts, each of said nuts having a shelf which contactingly engages said opposed flared ends of said metallic sleeve.

Sub c. > 16. (amended) A connector for liquids which comprises:

- or
- (a) an inner polymeric liner having one flared end and an opposed integrally molded sealing end, said liner having a centrally disposed bore therethrough, and wherein said sealing end comprises
    - (i) a radially extending sealing surface from said liner, and
    - (ii) a shoulder which terminates the sealing surface, and wherein said bore of said sealing end is essentially the same as said bore of said liner,
  - (b) a bendable outer metallic sleeve having two opposed flared ends of similar geometry to each of said polymeric liner flared end and said shoulder of said sealing end and a plurality of ribs between said two opposed flared ends of said metallic sleeve; and
  - (c) two outwardly facing threaded nuts, each of said nuts having a shelf which contactingly engages said opposed flared ends of said metallic sleeve.

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### Status

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The application presently contains the following claims:

<i>Independent Claim #</i>	<i>Dependent Claim #s</i>
1	2-4
5	6-7
8	9-11

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12	13-15
16	17-18
Provisionally 19	20 pending reconsideration by the examiner
Provisionally 21	22 pending reconsideration by the examiner
Provisionally 23	24-25 pending reconsideration by the examiner
Provisionally 26	27-28 pending reconsideration by the examiner
Provisionally 29	30-31 pending reconsideration by the examiner
Provisionally 32	33-34 pending reconsideration by the examiner

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Claims 19-34 were provisionally deleted by the applicant, and once again, are provisionally deleted in this amendment pending a request for reconsideration by the examiner. Claims 1, 5, 8, 12 and 16 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found as follows:

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<i>Claim #'s</i>	<i>Antecedent Support Location</i>
1, 5, 8, 12 and 16	FIG. 4 and with further reference to paragraph [0021] which clearly shows use with a water heater.

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The applicant's attorney thanks the examiner for his thorough examination and would respectfully request the examiner to reconsider his Restriction Requirement in light of the following argument.

In accordance with §1.121(c), the claims provided in this amendment section reflect the changes which are to be made in the claims, and a clean copy implementing said changes is included at the end of this Amendment Response in accordance with §1.121(c)(1)(i). Additionally, a marked up version of the amended claims is also provided for the examiner in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii).

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#### ***Claim Restriction Requirement & Responsive Arguments***

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The examiner has made final an initial Restriction Requirement and determined that the applicant's traversal was not found persuasive. While the applicant respects